



# ST. CHARLES PARISH

## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

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V.J. ST. PIERRE, JR.  
PARISH PRESIDENT

DUANE P. FORET  
DIRECTOR

TO: V.J. ST. PIERRE, JR.  
ST. CHARLES PARISH, PARISH PRESIDENT

FROM: DUANE P. FORET   
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

The St. Charles Parish Department of Parks and Recreation completed another dynamic and productive year in 2014 while enhancing our community through people, parks and recreation programming. The job of providing high quality, safe after-school, recreation, leisure programs and park facilities is a challenge we work hard to fulfill with a goal to exceed our resident's expectations. Through continued support and participation, our St. Charles Parish Department of Parks and Recreation is able to make a difference in our residents quality of life, and work toward building a sustainable community. The Department of Parks and Recreation oversees 317 acres of land and operates 50 parks that include athletic fields, restrooms, picnic areas, boat launches, walking multi-use paths and concession stands at most of the sites. We also, must cut, spray for pests, chalk and clean these 317 acres of land in the parish. If you factor in inclement weather it becomes a highly intensive task just to cut grass and maintains parks. We strive to provide a wide array of sports, recreation activities, passive settings, and special events to provide enjoyment for citizens of all ages.

Each year, thousands of happy customers use our parks and recreation programs to get active, learn new skills and have fun in improving their health and well-being. By providing quality recreation programs our residents have come accustomed to a very committed staff, the dedication of a very active OTS Board, and the commitment and dedicated service of parish officials. The commitment to excellence is taken seriously among those of us who are dedicated to providing St. Charles Parish residents with the very best in parks and recreation services.

Recreation Services provides a broad spectrum of leisure services to meet the needs of all segments of the community. This includes group and individual programming to promote a high

quality of life through positive, social, cultural, psychological, emotional, and physiological development. We work alongside with the School Board and assist them in grass cutting and maintenance work in turn so that we are able to use their gyms, fields and facilities. Gym space continues to be a major obstacle for our program. The newly opened community center added a tremendous value to our department and helps provide more gym space for our program.

We are very grateful for the hundreds of volunteers and sponsors who give so freely of their time and who continue to be devoted to our youth and adult programs. Their support and continued interest allows us all to develop and maintain excellent facilities, parks, programs and services. We appreciate those who are devoted and contribute to the health and wellness of St. Charles Parish. Parks and Recreation sincerely understand the benefits that this department brings to each citizen and we will strive to continue to reach all residents with our parks and recreation programming here in St. Charles Parish.

### **2014 Youth and Adult Sports Participation**

<b>Recreation Sports</b>	
Boys Basketball	935
Girls Basketball	132
American League Baseball	144
National League Baseball	886
Girls Softball	414
Fall Baseball	205
Volleyball	274
Football	654
Adult Basketball	120
Adult Softball	500
All Star Baseball	96
All Star Softball	61
All Star Boys Basketball	36
All Star Girls Basketball	36
Soccer	900
Cheerleaders	135
Track	45
Senior Olympics	853
Special Olympics	1103
Summer Camp / Swamp School	689
Challenger T-Ball	85
Shooting Stars Basketball	85
Tennis	108
<b>Total Participation</b>	<b>8698</b>

## **Recreational Activities Offered**

- Youth -** Football, Basketball, Baseball, All Stars, Fall Baseball, Soccer, Cheerleading, Softball, T-Ball (Boys & Girls), Summer Camp, Volleyball, Track, Tennis, Temporary Summer Jobs, Picnics, etc.
- Adult -** Basketball, Women, Industrial and Independent Softball, Radio Control Racetrack, Coaching, Multi-Use Track at East and West Bank Levee, and Walking Track, Temporary Summer Jobs, Picnics, etc.
- Seniors -** Bowling, Softball, Basketball, Arts & Crafts, Game Sporting Activities, Mardi Gras Ball, Fishing Rodeo, Horseshoes, Sketching & Oil Painting Classes, Casino Trips, Field Trips, etc.
- Special Athletes -** Softball, T-Ball, Volleyball, Track & Field, Basketball, Bowling, Bocce, Challenger Baseball Program, Shooting Stars Basketball and Swimming.

### **Youth Baseball – (Babe Ruth League)**

3 Separate Leagues – American League, National League, and Fall Baseball  
American League is a more skilled level of play which ends the season with the ability to participate in All Stars. National League is a recreational level of play which enables the players to learn the game at a lower level of play. Fall Baseball is a recreational level of play. Fall Baseball is an instructional program designed to teach kids the fundamentals of baseball and prepare them for the upcoming spring season. There were a total of 97 teams of baseball for 2014 season.

### **All Star Baseball Competition - Boys**

Ages 7-14 Boys participated in State; 12 Boys were Runner Up in State, 13 Boys State Champions, 14 Boys were State Champions.

### **Babe Ruth Softball League – Babe Ruth League**

One league is held for girls through the Recreation Department which includes a tryout and placement on a team. All Stars are drafted by coaches at the end of the season. There were a total of 37 teams of softball for 2014 which includes the All Star Teams.

### **All Star Softball Competition - Girls**

Ages 7-16 Girls participated in State; 12 & 14 year olds finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in State and 16 Girls were State Champions. Also, our 16 Girls were Regional Champions and moved on to participate in

Babe Ruth Softball World Series, where they placed 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Challenger Baseball**

2 teams – Special Athletes

85 Participants including Buddies that assisted with the program.

The Challenger Division is a program for mentally and physically challenged youth, helping them to enjoy the full benefits of participation in an athletic environment structured to their abilities. More than the skills of baseball learned through the experience, the value of the Challenger Program is found in the proven therapeutic and socialization benefits of participating in sports, the strengthening of participants' self-esteem, the opportunities to mainstream into other divisions of play, and the disciplines of teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play, which are hallmarks of this program.

### **Youth Football Program**

In 2014, we had a total of 29 teams that participated in this program. This was another great season with 654 participants. Our Bowl Day Championship was a great success along with our Cheerleading Showcase.

### **Youth Volleyball**

Our Volleyball Program continues to be a great success. We had 22 teams consisting of 274 participants.

### **Fall Baseball**

Fall baseball maintained 17 teams with 205 participants during the fall season and ran smoothly. The fall league is for the children who want to continue playing baseball after the regular season ends.

### **Youth Basketball Program**

Youth Basketball continues to run smoothly with the exception of gym space. There were 85 teams with 1,067 participants (girls and boys) this includes the All Star Team after regular play. In 2014, the Department of Parks and Recreation continued to coordinate the girl's parish-wide league which included registering, drafting, and providing uniforms for girls 9-14. Gym space remains to be a challenge. However, with the addition of our new community center more teams are awarded practice times.

### **All Star Competition - Basketball**

- 8 Yr. Girls Biddy Basketball placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the State Tournament and Runner up in the National Tournament
- 10 Yr. Girls Biddy Basketball placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State Tournament and 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the

#### Single A National Tournament

- 12 Yr. Girls Biddy Basketball placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the State Tournament
- 8 Yr. Boys Biddy Basketball placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in State and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the National Tournament
- 9 Yr. Boys Biddy Basketball placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in State
- 10 Yr. Boys Biddy Basketball placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in State and 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Single A National Tournament
- 11 Yr. Boys Biddy Basketball placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in State
- 12 Yr. Boys Biddy Basketball placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in State

#### **Basketball – Shooting Stars**

2 teams – Special Athletes

85 Participants including Buddies that assisted with the program.

This program was developed due to the success in our Challenger Baseball Program. Program is for the mentally and physically challenged youth, helping them to enjoy the full benefits of participation in an athletic environment structured to their abilities. A Christmas Celebration was held with Santa at the end of the season in December.

#### **Summer Camp**

In 2014, we once again offered before and after care program at Lakewood and Schoeffner and also enjoyed day camp at St. Rose and Luling. We had 437 campers that attended camp. We offered Camp Shriver Program to challenge athletes with disabilities and inclusion. Camp Flat Fee for entire 6 week session was \$250 that included all field trips, water slide day, freeze pops, pizza day and snacks for before and after care. We also offered After-Care for an additional fee of \$300. The Department of Parks and Recreation took over the registration along with coordinating of the Wetland Watchers Swamp School Program consisting of 131 campers. The Swamp School Program consisted of 3 separate 1 week sessions.

#### **Adult Softball**

We had a total of 25 teams that participated in the 2014 Softball season. The Department of Parks and Recreation offers 3 separate leagues. The following leagues consisted of; 8 Industrial teams, 10 Independent and 7 Women's League teams that participated in Adult Softball Program

#### **Adult Basketball**

For 2014, we had an Industrial League Program with 8 teams that included 120 participants in the league.

### **Seniors**

Seniors enjoyed visiting Casino Trips that were available on a monthly schedule. Numerous sports offered along with arts & crafts, exercise and events, etc. The competitors represented our parish well in regional and national competition. Senior activities included the Mardi Gras Ball, Bowling League, Bayou-River District Olympic Games, Golf, Fishing Rodeo, Arts and Crafts, Bocce, Fitness Program, Road Trips (dining, casino, shopping, etc.) and several others. Special Olympics participants enjoyed, softball competition, Olympic games, horseshoes, track and field, basketball, t-ball, and working with the Alligator Festival.

### **Boat Launches**

We have 10 boat launches in St. Charles Parish.

### **2014 Highlights:**

The Department of Parks and Recreation held its 5th Annual Easter Egg Hunt along with a hat and jelly bean competition. We had over 900 participants who attended this event. The Easter Hat Competition was once again a people pleaser and you can view video on [stcharlesgov.net](http://stcharlesgov.net). This event grows tremendously every year. We have great expectations for the coming years

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mardi Gras (daytime) Dance was held in the Edward A. Dufresne Community Center

**Online Registration** – During the year 2014, approximately 1,304 people have registered for various programs using the online registration and payment system offered by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Online registration has saved individual registrants time by allowing them to utilize their home PC or smart phone in order to register for various sports. In 2014 the Department of Parks and Recreation launched Online Summer Camp Registration which was a tremendous improvement for Summer Camp. In 2014 The Department of Parks and Recreation took on The Wetlands Swamp School Summer program. The Department handled all online registration for this program.

The Department of Parks and Recreation hosted 10 teams in the 9 year old boys Biddy State Basketball Tournament.

The Department of Parks and Recreation hosted the 13 and 14 year old Babe Ruth Baseball Louisiana State Tournament. The tournament consisted of a total of 14 teams from around the State of Louisiana.

## **Parks and Recreation 2014 Projects:**

The West Bank Bridge Park- installed a Fitness Station which was donated by United Way. The Fitness Station includes a 5 in 1 upper body and lower body station, 2 cardio stations and 2 upper body stations. Utility poles and lighting receptacles were added to the multipurpose fields.

East Bank Bridge Park- installed a brand new playground .The Miracle to Milestone handicap accessible playground was constructed at the East Bank Bridge Park in place of the existing playground. The East Bank Bridge Park baseball fields were dressed with sod going down the foul line and base line areas. This will help with drainage and dirt loss. Work was completed on the East Bank Tennis courts which included, resurfacing and painting of the courts.

Ormond Park- complete renovation includes; new playground equipment, 2 baseball fields and a multipurpose field, concession stand, men's and women's bathroom facilities, pavilion, walking path, spray park, and a new resurfaced parking lot with additional parking spaces

New Sarpy Booster Club Park- installed new playground equipment

Bayou Gauche Park- installed new playground equipment and pavilion

Monsanto Park- installed new playground equipment with additional bench seating.

Boutte Park- new playground equipment, painted pavilion and restroom facilities, installed a parking controlled barrier to eliminate parking on the basketball courts.

**Recognition of Volunteer Hours** – Coaches (Practice, Games & Playoffs) 46,290 hours – Parish Booster Clubs (Meetings, Registration & Concessions) 7,954 hours. Our total “Volunteer Hours” from dedicated individuals consisted of 54,244 hours in 2014.

## **Partnering Agencies and Activities in our Community**

United Way	Wetland Watchers	American Cancer Society
Rotary Club	Council on Aging	Relay for Life
STC Picnic	5K Bridge Run	Senior Games
Cancer Relay	Teen Violence Seminar	The Arc
Bayou River Region	Battle for the Paddle	
Special Olympics	Alligator Festival	
STC School System	Christmas tree lighting	
RSVP	Employee Picnic	